

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 7/28/09 has been entered.
Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 7/28/09 have been fully considered and persuasive (see page 10 - 11, of the remarks filed on 7/28/09) and the 102(e) rejection are withdrawn and all the pending claims 1-12 are now allowed.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/6/09, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Claims 1-12 are allowed.

Applicant's arguments (see page 10-11, of the remarks filed on 7/28/09). The prior art of record Endoh et al., (US. 7,359,531) is relied upon in the Office Action for disclosing a personal verification apparatus which photographs a blood vessel image of the palm of a hand and is built into a mouse, a keyboard or the like. In particular, Endoh discloses a visible light cut filter 50 cutting off visible light, a CMOS camera 51 having the filter 50 to photograph a palm of a hand and an image

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processing unit 52 performing a binary coding process on a blood vessel image photographed by the CMOS camera 1. See col. 9, lines 22-28 of the reference.

However, Endoh does not disclose the claimed combination of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 11 and 12. Specifically, the Office Action states that Endoh is relied upon for disclosing a light shielding unit, however Endoh does not disclose a light shielding unit for shielding infrared light emitted from the light sources and preventing the infrared light from traveling in an image pickup direction of the image pickup unit (as recited in claim 1); sets forth that the light shielding unit is provided between the openings and the light sources and to more than half of an upper portion of the light sources on the open side (as recited by claim 11); states that the light shielding unit is provided between the opening and the light sources and to an upper portion of the light sources on the opening side (as recited in claim 12), as commonly included in each of the independent claims 1, 11 and 12, the prior art of record fails to teach either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted on later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled, comments on statement of reasons for allowance.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEELA C. CHAWAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7446. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.30- 5.00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikkram Bali can be reached on 571-272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)? If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sheela C Chawan/

10/23/09

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624